1027-14-144 **Jeffrey D. Achter*** (j.achter@colostate.edu), Department of Mathematics, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1874. *Exceptional covers of surfaces.* Preliminary report.

Consider a finite morphism $f : X \to Y$ of smooth, projective varieties over a finite field k. If X and Y are curves, and if $\#k$ is sufficiently large relative to the genus of X and the degree of f, then Guralnick, Tucker and Zieve show that f induces an *injection* on k-points if and only if it induces a *surjection* on k-points.

I will present an analogous theorem for surfaces, and discuss related results valid in arbitrary dimension. (Received February 24, 2007)